

RTM Health and Human Services Committee
MINUTES

TO: Jeff Dunkerton
Town Clerk
Westport, CT 06880

THE Health and Human Services Committee met via Zoom
AT 7:00 pm ON June 12, 2023.

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE: Wendy Batteau, Jessica Bram, Harris Falk, Jack Klinge, Sal Liccione, Kristin Schneeman, Chris Tait, Julie Whamond,

THE COMMITTEE met:

1. To discuss and make a recommendation to the RTM on the proposed ordinance creating a Westport Fair Rent Commission pursuant to and in conformity with C.G.S. §§ 7-148b through 7-148f, 47a-20 and 47a-23c, there is hereby created a Fair Rent Commission (“Commission”) for the purpose of controlling and eliminating excessive rental charges for housing accommodations within the Town, and to carry out the purposes, duties, responsibilities and all provisions of the above described sections and any other sections of the statutes, as they may be amended from time to time, pertaining to fair rent commissions as mandated by statute.

Discussion was carried over from May 23, 2023. Attorney Eileen Flug explained changes made in the proposed ordinance after its first reading. She had distributed redlined versions of the ordinance which addressed the changes, language that was mandated by CT statute, and matters over which the RTM could exercise discretion.

Committee members made and voted on two amendments to present to the RTM. One failed; the other was approved unanimously (Klinge, Schneeman), as follows:

The first sentence in Paragraph 2, regarding the establishment of the Committee, “(2) The Commission shall consist of five (5) members, all of whom shall be electors of the Town. ...”

shall be amended to read: The Commission shall consist of five (5) members and three (3) alternates. One (1) member shall be a residential tenant, and the alternate for this member shall be a residential tenant. One (1) member shall be a residential landlord, and the alternate for this member shall be a residential landlord. Three (3) members shall be neither tenants nor landlords, and there shall be one (1) non-tenant, non-landlord alternate for this group of three members. All members and alternates shall be electors of the Town. A quorum of the meeting shall consist of at least one residential tenant, one residential landlord, and one non-residential tenant/landlord.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 9:12 pm

SUBMITTED BY: Wendy Batteau, Chair, RTM Health and Human Services Committee

DATE: June 14, 2023

THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Sec. 1-225. Meetings of government agencies to be public. Recording of votes.... (a) The meetings of all public agencies, except executive sessions as defined in subdivision (6) of section 1-200, shall be open to the public. The votes of each member of any such public agency upon any issue before such public agency shall be reduced to writing and made available for public inspection within forty-eight hours and shall also be recorded in the minutes of the session at which taken, which minutes shall be available for public inspection within seven days of the session to which they refer.

Sec. 1-200. Definitions. As used in this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings, except where such terms are used in a context which clearly indicates the contrary: (1) "Public agency" or "agency" means *any ... state or town agency, ... board, commission, authority or official of ... any town, ... municipal corporation, ... or other political subdivision of the state, including any committee of, or created by, any such office, subdivision, agency, department, ... board, commission, authority or official, ...*